

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2355

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG KU

SUBJECT: NEW OIL MINISTER ON GOK OIL POLICIES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. KUWAIT TIMES ON FEBRUARY 26 CARRIED ITEM BASED ON INTERVIEW
IN PARIS BY NEW MINISTER OF OIL KAZEMI WITH LE FIGARO. ACCORDING
TO THIS ACCOUNT KAZEMI MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON BASIC
CURRENT OIL ISSUES: (A) ON NATIONALIZATION HE SAID GOK WOULD
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NATIONALIZE OIL COMPANIES OPERATING HERE ONLY WHEN THEIR TECH-

NICAL ASSISTANCE NO LONGER NEEDED. KUWAIT TIMES IN HEADLINE SAID KAZEMI PUTS OIL NATIONALIZATION IN COLD STORAGE. (B) ON PRODUCTION HE DESCRIBED CURRENT REDUCTION AS TEMPORARY MADE TO ADAPT TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ONE CANNOT SAY THAT WE HAVE TAKEN A DEFINITIVE DECISION TO REDUCE PRODUCTION, HE SAID. (C) ON PRICES KAZEMI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING GOK WILL NOT RPT NOT REDUCE PRICES. HE ADDED THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH CONSUMING COUNTRIES WAS A MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR GOK BUT GOVERNMENT FEELS NEED FOR SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: FIGARO INTERVIEW REPRESENTS FIRST IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY NEW MINISTER TO PRESS ON OIL POLICIES. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HIS REMARKS ARE SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE TO THOSE MADE RECENTLY BY HIS PREDECESSOR ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ATEEQI ON SAME SUBJECTS. IN FIGARO INTERVIEW AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US KAZEMI GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE INTENDS FOLLOW ESSENTIALLY MODERATE POLICIES ESTABLISHED DURING ATEEQI'S TENURE AS MINISTER.

3. WE THINK AT THIS STAGE, STILL ONLY A FEW WEEKS SINCE TAKING OVER AS MINISTER, KAZEMI MORE CONCERNED WITH ORGANIZATION OF OIL POLICY BODIES THAN WITH SPECIFIC POLICIES. HE SHARES WITH PRIME MINISTER, ATEEQI AND OTHERS POLICY MAKING RESPONSIBILITY AS MEMBER OF HIGHER PETROLEUM COUNCIL. KAZEMI HAS TRIPLE TASKS OF TAKING HIS PROPER PLACE IN POWER STRUCTURE AMONG PRIME MINISTER, ATEEQI AND OTHERS, OF ESTABLISHING HIS PERSONAL AUTHORITY OVER MINISTRY AND OF ASSERTING MINISTRY'S PRIMACY OVER NEWLY FORMED KUWAIT OIL, GAS AND ENERGY COMPANY (KOGEC) WHICH WILL HAVE BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES IN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF PETROLEUM POLICY. STOLTZFUS

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